FINAL REPORT ON ANALYSIS OF

SECOND BREAKDOWN

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FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GRADUATE STUDY IN ENGINEERING

# FINAL REPORT ON ANALYSIS OF

SECOND BREAKDOWN

Contract number- NAS-8-21286
Marshall Space Flight Center



Newark College Of Engineering Newark, New Jersey In this our final report on contract number NAS-8-21286 on second breakdown two conclusions are quite clear as a result of all the experimental data that we generated here at NCE.

One is that most power transistors get into sedond breakdown at a lower current when the temperatures are very low. It is also clear that some transistors do not follow this behavior. But they are few and far between. In an informal communication with the very active group at Fort Monmouth in Second Breakdown studies led by Barney Reich and Ed. B. Hakim, confirmation of this fact occured. They were originally surprised at our finding but later they pursued the subject further and confirmed our findings. We are of course unable to explain the exceptions nor are we yet very clear on explaining the greater venerability to second breakdown at lower temperatures. This because there is no doubt in our minds about the well stablished hot spot theory. We propose to persue this matter further since.

These findings of course are very significant in that what might be considered safe and therefore super at low temperatures because the cause of failure is heat (or hot spot) actually fails when we would have normally felt overconfident.

The second finding is that where as there is very mild Co-relation between electrical noise and early second breakdown this is extremely extremely mild being +0.465. Much more work needs to be done in this field before more light can be thrown on this subject.

Data was taken on this topic spread over a long period of time and data collected at NCE is reported is this report in detail. Mr. Durwin, a graduate student here and at University of New Hampshire has theorized this data further and any interested reader of this report can further discuss this subject.

R. P. Misra, PhD.

Professor of Electrical Engineering and Reliability in Electronics.

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# THIS REPORT TO BE SEEN ONLY BY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT

Subject: Cost and Performance Report Contract No .: NAS8-21286 Chemical and Structural Analysis of Second Breakdown Item Nomenclature: Control No.: DCN 1-8-60-00155(IF) April 1,1969-April 30,1969 And final reporting August 1969 Period of Report: Man Hours 258 Total in April 3195.5 Cumulative Funds Salaries 1066.13 Equipment and Supplies Overhead Total Expenses For The Period 1066.13 Outstanding Commitment Cumulative Total 22,631.00 % Total Spent 100% c. Work Completion (to date) During This Period 6% Cumulative 100%

# Second Breakdown Vs Temperature: -

The status of second breakdown currents, (and the 1st breakpoint only has been sonsidered in the event of multiple breakpoints) shows the general pattern as indicated in the early pages of this report.

It was hoped that we could make further measurements at cryogenic temperature of liquid Heluim but our difficulties in setting up this equipment still persists and so this point could not be taken.

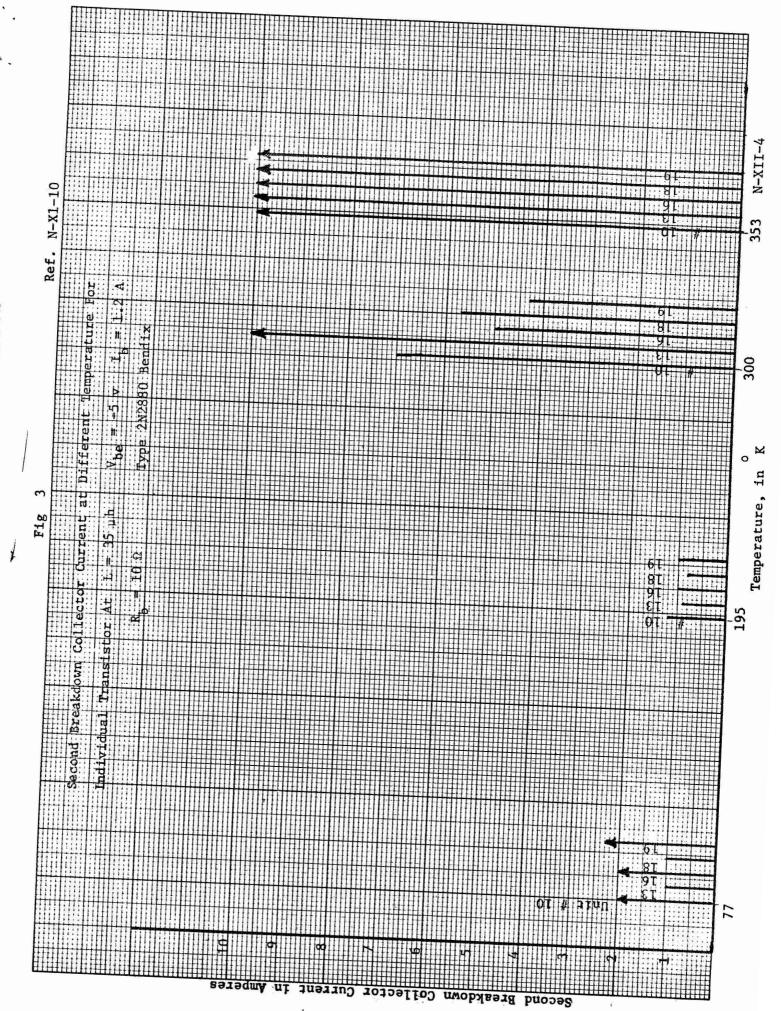
Measurements made at this point when they become available will certainly give us more insight into the reasons of the transistor behavior.

The inconsistency in the behavior of some transistors is probably caused due to response time since there is no doubt that ultimately the Second breakdown failure is caused due to the hot spot.

The attached curves are self explanatory.

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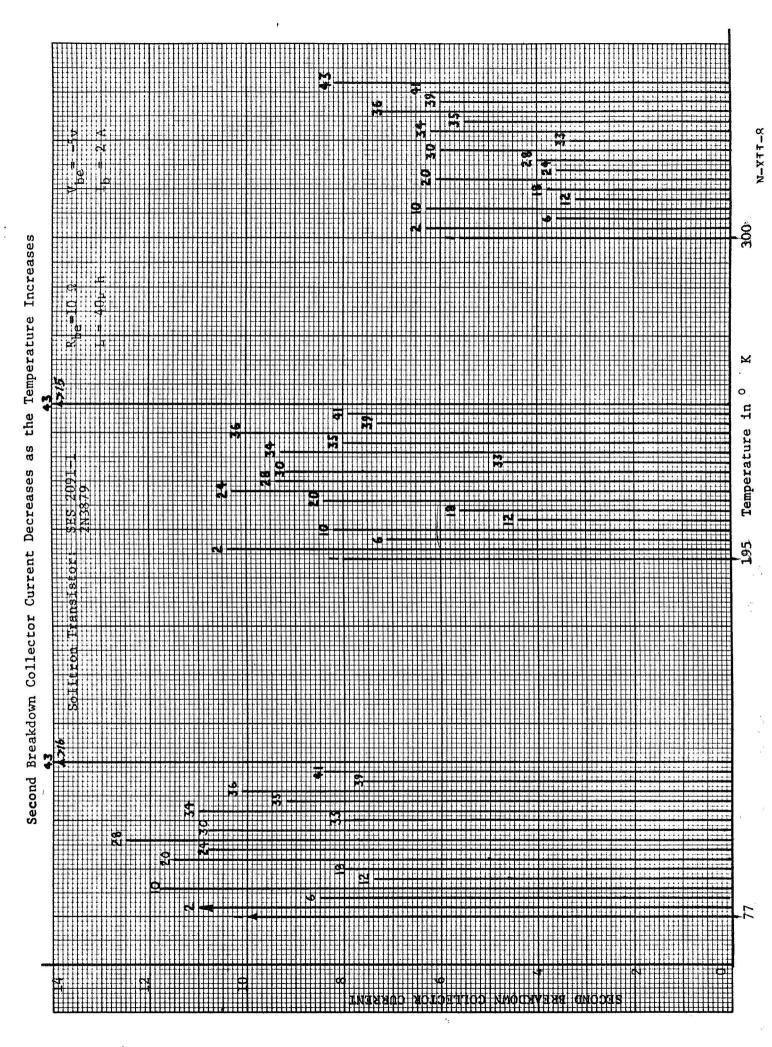
AVERAGE SECOND BREAKDOWN COLLECTOR CURRENT IN AMPERES

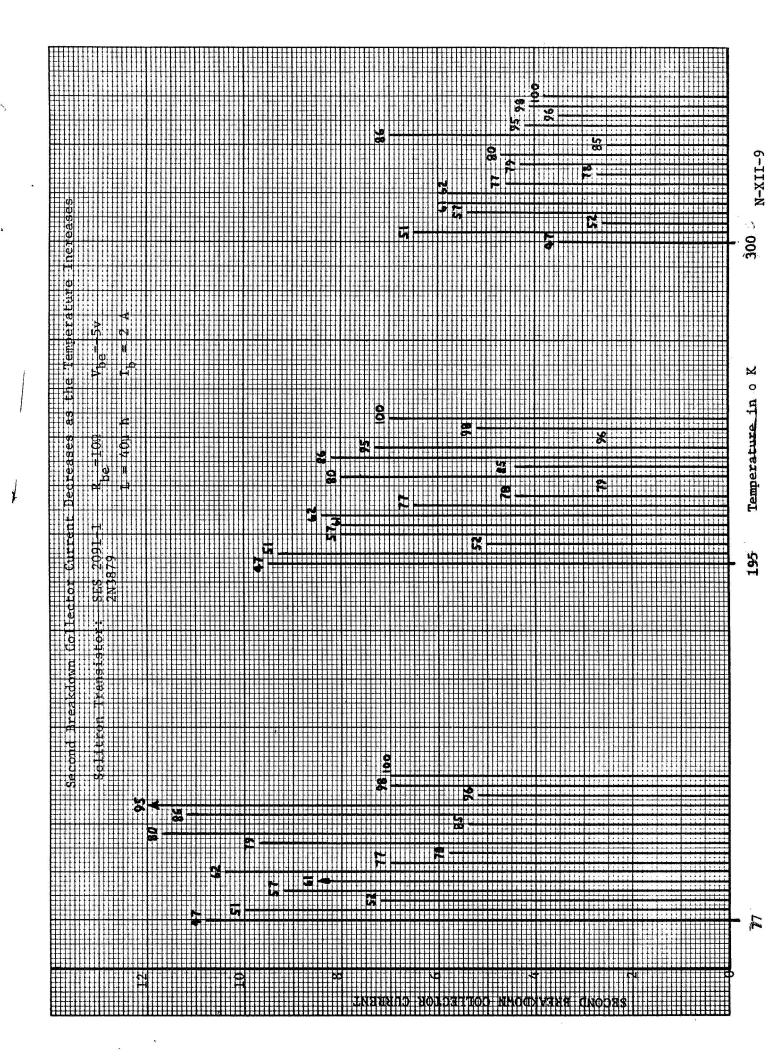
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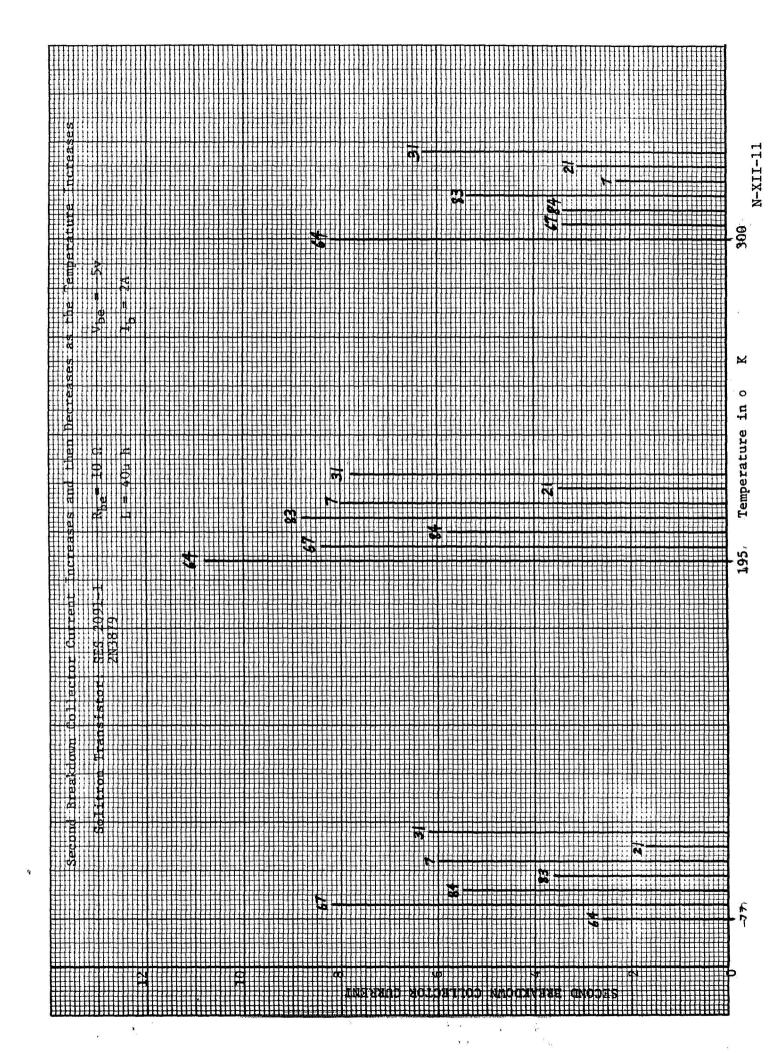
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## Correlation Between Noise and Second Breakdown:

The attached data shows the extremely meager amount of correlation between second breakdown and electrical noise. In actual figures the coefficient of correlation came to +0.465.

The thought here was that in the same family of transistors, those that had a lower current of Second Breakdown must have spiked or defective junction region and hence these junctions should show greater electrical noise. This hypothesis did not bear itself out in our measurement in the Laboratory. J.H. Durnin, W. Gee and others at MCE laboratory made the measurements over an extended period of time and Durnin has theorized this data for his Master's thesis.

At this moment our only conclusion would be that the data is encouraging but what has to be done is to find a method of noise measurement over a very short period of time but using very high forward current. If future funds became available this study should prove helpful.

DATA AND GRAPHS
ON
SECOND BREAKDOWN AND
ELECTRICAL NOISE

### DATA AND GRAPHS

#### Definition of Symbols Used l.

The following symbols are used in Figures Al through A4 and A9:

- (m) Single (multiple) data point for a center frequency f of 10 hertz.
- (A) Single (multiple) data point for a center frequency f of 1 kilohertz.
- RBE The value of base to emitter resistance used when the second breakdown current, Isp, was obtained (see Figure 3.1).

The following symbols are used in Figures A5 through A7:

- ICBO Collector to base leakage current with the emitter open circuited
- Iсви Collector to base leakage current with the emitter at the stated condition
- R<sub>BE</sub> The value of base to emitter resistance used when the noise voltages, V,, shown were recorded (see Figure 3.46).
- Single (multiple) data point for a leakage current of 1 milliampere.
- Single (multiple) data point for a leakage current of 5 milliamperes.

- Δ (A) Single (multiple) data point for a leakage current of 10 milliamperes.
- X Common data point for leakage currents of 1, 5, 10 milliamperes.

The following symbols are used in Figure 8:

- Data point for a collector current, Ic, of 0.01 amperes.
- Data point for a collector current, Ic, of 0.03 amperes.
- O Data point for a collector current, Ic, of 0.06 amperes.
- X Data point for a collector current, Ic, of 0.10 amperes.
- Data point for a collector current, I e, of 0.35 amperes.

TABLE A1
SECOND BREAKDOWN CURRENT, ISB, IN AMPERES

45000 Strategistration of the	A PART AND THE PROPERTY OF THE	Benghi yakanaran jakasa minemakanga menakakan kananaranga sahalan dalam kananaranga sahalan dalam dalam kanana	de States de programment ambién de manuels, est para general de la folloció de la folloció de la folloció de l	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	erke kristaan sektorikan banka b	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		And the second section of the second section is a second section of the second second second second second sec
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Table Al - Second Breakdown Current, IsB, In Amperes (cont'd)

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Unit		R <sub>BE</sub> * 10 o	ohms	more than the control of the control		n = 20	ohms	,
Ċ	300° K	273° K	195° K	**	300° K	273° K	195° K	Y o L
				80000000000000000000000000000000000000				ΔΙΥ

Table Al - Second Breakdown Current, IsB, In Amperes (cont'd)

Unit to	capana di kirilda sir niye kiril kirilda kiril	R = 10 oi	ohms			R <sub>BE</sub> = 20 (	20 ohms	
°°	300° K	273° K	195° K	77°K	300° K	273° K	195° K	77° K
8 9 9 9 9 9 9 4 9 9 9 9 9 4 9 9 9 9	r wa wa w r wo v do	uwwwaa aoamon	40m 40	4000000 *******************************	4 1 4 4 V	r 2000	1.6	1.5 6.0 8.2 8.8

All readings taken on second breakdown test set. æ NOTES:

b) Inductance was 40 µ henries.

<u>;</u>.

c) Base drive was set at 2 amperes.

d) Base reverse blas, VBE, was -5 volts.

Readings, such as >10, indicate IS greater than the current listed (caused by uncertainties in readings or power supply limitations). **~** 

Readings, such as 2.1%6.4, indicate multiple second breakdown currents. 

TABLE A2 COLLECTOR TO BASE NOISE VOLTAGES,  $V_n$ , IN MICROVOLTS RMS (Readings Taken at Given  $I_{CBO}$ )

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Unit No.	T <sub>CBO</sub> = 2 M f = 10 hz.	licroamp.  f = 1 khz.	I <sub>сво</sub> = 1 f = 10 hz.	Milliamp.  f = 1 khz.
78023478901467801345679178012346 <b>79</b>	32055800090005 184558200090005 2200903003003835004 11682006 13006	0.9 630 3500 231 231 25.8 1100 231 25.8 260 250 340 400 480 200 480 200 480 200 480 200 480 480 480 480 480 480 480 480 480 4	12 220 12 18 240 30 10 50 90 50 150 160 600 1200 720 720 508 20 170 100 1400 1400 150 150 150 150 150 160 160 160 160 160 160 160 160 160 16	3.5 240 3 7 200 10 3.5 10 90 130 300 5500 5200 5200 5200 5200 5200 520

Unit No.	I <sub>CBO</sub> = 2 I f = 10 hz.	Microamp.	T <sub>CBO</sub> = 1 f = 10 hz.	Milliamp. f = 1 khz.
612 612 664 679 777 778 778 888 888 999 990 10	30 110 170 - 8 2.5 220 150 290 100 300 180 14 16 3.0 160 100 220 600 200	5 170 190 1.6 0.75 200 130 260 90 4.5 210 110 80 270 170 1.2 0.5 140 600 170 600 150	20 20 27 21 18 5 20 150 150 120 16 300 130 60 60 300 21 15	24 10 27 4.5 15 15 10 70 30 30 30 30 10 50 15 55

NOTES: a) Symbol I means Collector to Base Reverse Current, With Emitter Open Circuited.

- b) A one hertz band width was used at the frequencies listed.
- c) All measurements were taken on a Quan. Tech. Labs Model 327 Diode Noise Analyzer.
- d) Unit numbers 61 through 77 have readings listed for I<sub>CBO</sub> = 2 milliamp. not I<sub>CBO</sub> = 1 milliamp.

TABLE A3

# COLLECTOR TO BASE NOISE VOLTAGE SPECTRUM

(Noise Voltages in Microvolts; Band Width = 100 hz.)

Unit			enter Fre	equencies	er State (der verset gewonniste van entwikkelijke van de verset gewonniste van de verset gewonniste van de ver
No.	100 hz.	l khz.	5 khz.	.10 khz.	100 khz.
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12 13 14 17	440 460 430 420	220 240 220 240	16 16 18 18	8 9 10 11	2 1 2 2
	managalakkan kalikaja kalengan kan sun sa masikan kalikaja si dangalakka	1	сво = 5 Мі	.lliamperes	
12 13 14 17	740 750 710 680	260 270 260 280	12 10 10 11	8 11 6 6	2 2 2 2
		<sup>I</sup> C	:50 = 10 N	Milliamperes	
12 13 14 17	780 760 720 740	360 390 <b>370</b> <b>3</b> 60	13 26 25 24	14 14 19 12	2 2 2 2

Quan. Tech. Labs Model 303 Wave Analyzer NOTES: a) used for all measurements.

- b) Collector current limiting resistor was 10,000 ohms.
- c) Test Circuit Figure 3.4a; Noise Voltage Spectrum plotted in Figure A5.

TABLE A4

# COLLECTOR TO BASE NOISE VOLTAGE SPECTRUM WITH EMITTER REVERSE BIASED (Noise Voltages in Microvolts; Band Width = 100 hz.)

	ne udalastikinik silendikin keleban sepala selat dini bili keleban silendik selat dini berakan keleban keleban Selat dini bili selat dini bili selat dini bili selat dini bili selat selat dini bili selat dini bili selat di				
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No.	100 hz.	l khz.	5 khz.	10 khz.	100 khz.
	ць чаму Физичения сестем міжаци дану дагійсц	I <sub>CBX</sub> = 1 N	Milliampere;	R <sub>BE</sub> = 10	Ohms
12 13 14 17	16 12 14 11	11 8 10 8	6 5 5 6	5 4 5	2 2 2 3
		I <sub>CBX</sub> = 5 N	Milliamperes	; R <sub>BE</sub> = 10	· Ohms
12 13 14 17	58 92 48 10	58 46 42 7	60 - 43 40 4	58 58 42 3	43 26 32 2
		r <sub>cax</sub> = 10	Milliampere	s; R <sub>BE</sub> = 1	0 Ohms
12 13 14 17	12 20 16 18	10 18 15 16	9 18 14 17	8 16 14 . 16	8 15 14 13
	rounderd \$2000000000000000000000000000000000000	I <sub>CBX</sub> = 1 N	(illiampere;	R <sub>BE</sub> = 20	Ohms
12 13 14 17	14 52 18 14	10 20 13 11	6 4 6 8	4 2 5 8	2 2 2 9

Table A4 (cont'd)

# Collector to Base Noise Voltage Spectrum With Emitter Reverse Biased

(Noise Voltages in Microvolts; Band Width = 100 hz.)

Unit		Processing and Control of the Contro	Center Fre	quencies	
No.	100 hz.	l khz.	5 khz.	10 khz.	100 khz.
		I <sub>CBX</sub> = 5 I	Milliampere	s; R <sub>BE</sub> = 20	Ohms
12 13 14 17	68 60 30 10	58 60 <b>2</b> 8 8	58 56 26 5	56 52 26 6	42 12 <b>25</b>
		I <sub>CBX</sub> = 10	Milliamper	es; R <sub>BE</sub> = 2	0 Ohms
12 13 14 17	12 23 16 18	10 23 12 18	8 22 10 19	7 22 9 20	6 18 9 14

- NOTES: a) Quan. Tech. Labs Model 303, Wave Analyzer used for all measurements.
  - b) Collector current limiting resistor was 10,000 ohms.
  - c) Test Circuit Figure 3.4b; Noise Voltage Spectrum plotted in Figures A6 and A7.
  - d) Symbol  $I_{CBX}$  means Collector to Base Reverse Current under stated conditions (base to emitter at 5 volts reverse bias).

(Noise Voltages in Microvolts; Band Width = 100 hz.)

Unit	No.	ise Voltage	for Given	I <sub>c</sub> (In Ampe	res)
No.	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.10	0.35
56 19 27 31 33 33 35 37 40 51 59 67 67	337 3388 330 330 331 331 331 331 331 331 331	578555555455 <b>555555</b> 5555555555555555555555	85 88 88 75 78 78 80 81 82 82 89 80	3526094885702008 <b>88</b> 888899998 <b>888</b>	31 33 33 33 33 33 30 98 99 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30

# NOTES:

- a) Quan. Tech. Labs Model 303 Wave Analyzer used for all measurements.
- b) Collector current limiting resistor was 100 ohms.
- c) Test Circuit Figure 3.5; Noise Voltage Spectrum plotted in Figure A8.
- d) Symbol I means current flowing into the collector terminal.
- e) Center frequency,  $f_{g} = 100 \text{ hz}$ .

TABLE A6  $\label{eq:base_to_emitter_noise_voltages} \text{Base to emitter noise voltages,} \\ v_n, \text{ in microvolts RMS}$ 

Unit	Nois	e Voltage for Given	ЕВО
No.	5 Microamp.	l Milliamp.	3 Milliamp
	10 hz. 1 khz.	10 hz. 1 khz.	10 hz. 1 khz.
78023478901467801345679178012 <b>346</b>	4.51 0.451 0.451 0.4554 0.43553 0.479430 0.430 0.45553 0.45553 0.45552 0.4552 0.45	7.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1	3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0 3.0

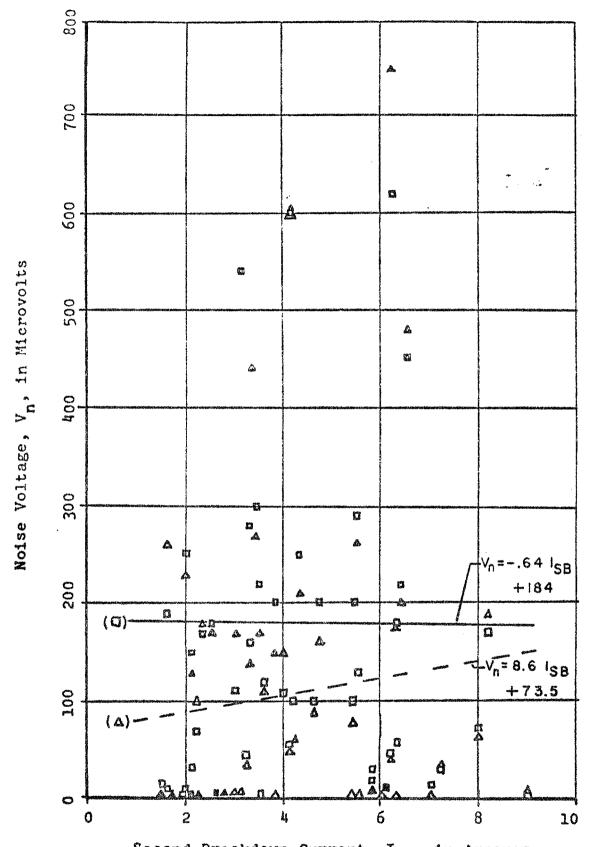
Table A6 (cont'd)

Base to Emitter Noise Voltages,
V<sub>n</sub>, In Microvolts RMS

Unit		Nois	e Voltage	for Given	I EBO	
No.	5 M <b>ic</b>	roamp.	1 Mil	liamp.	3 Mil	liamp.
	10 hz.	i khz.	10 hz.	l khz.	10 hz.	l khz.
79124901267890345679456 <b>8</b> 0	8054500005528000605500550 323354333322424443544623335	0.4058 0.494448 0.5304944448 0.68400445 0.455	0224000835560429520404886 5654508131431250543452113	3341476111120030521310000	7984254531157923648058779 2234562332212343243432223	2223352211110011132202002 20002

NOTES: a) Quan. Tech. Labs Model 327 Diode Noise Analyzer used on all measurements.

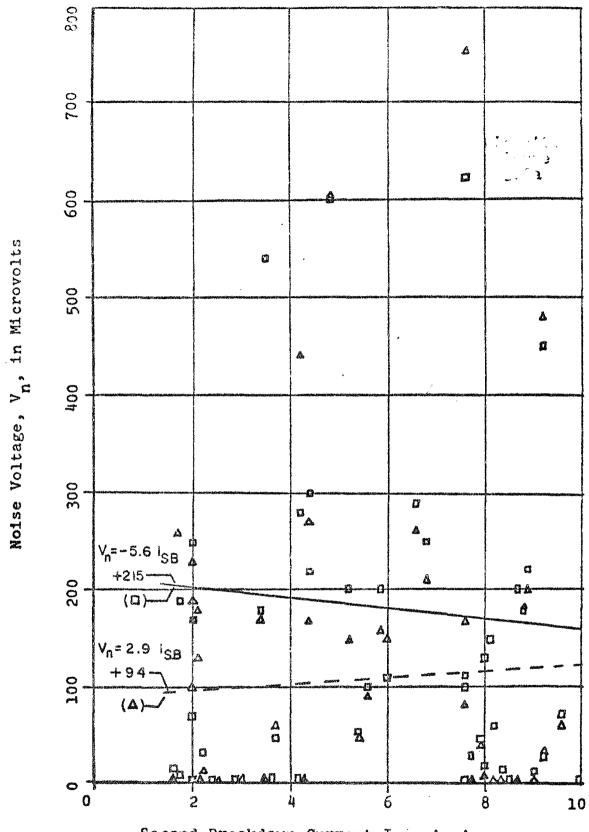
- b) A one hertz band width was used at the frequencies listed.
- c) Symbol I means base to emitter reverse current, with collector open circuited.
  - d) Test Circuit Figure 3.3b, except that for 5 microamp. measurement the 10 meg-ohm resistor was replaced by a 50 meg-ohm resistor.



Second Breakdown Current, I<sub>SB</sub>, in Amperes

Figure Al -- Noise Voltage vs. Second Breakdown Current

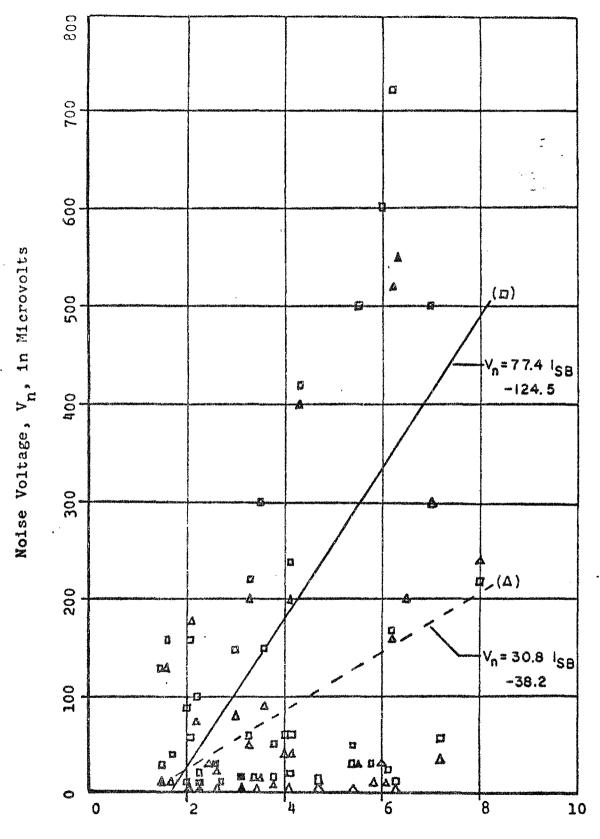
(I<sub>CBO</sub> = 2 | amp.; R<sub>BE</sub> = 10 ohms)



Second Breakdown Current, I<sub>SB</sub>, in Amperes

Pigure A2 -- Noise Voltage vs. Second Breakdown Current

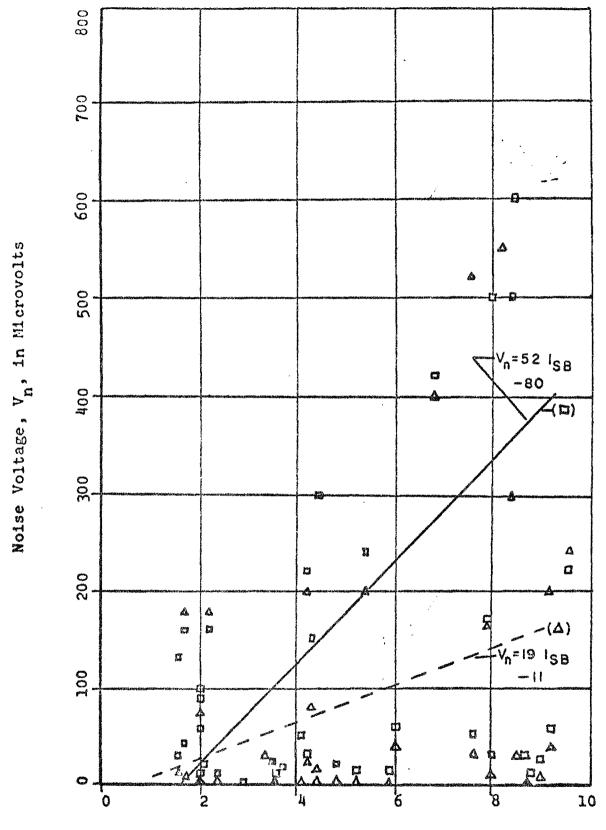
(I<sub>CBO</sub> = 2 amp.; R<sub>BE</sub> = 20 ohms)



Second Breakdown Current, I in Amperes
Figure A3 -- Noise Voltage vs. Second Breakdown Current

 $(I_{CBO} = 1 \text{ amp.; } R_{BE} = 10 \text{ ohms})$ 

N-XII- 30

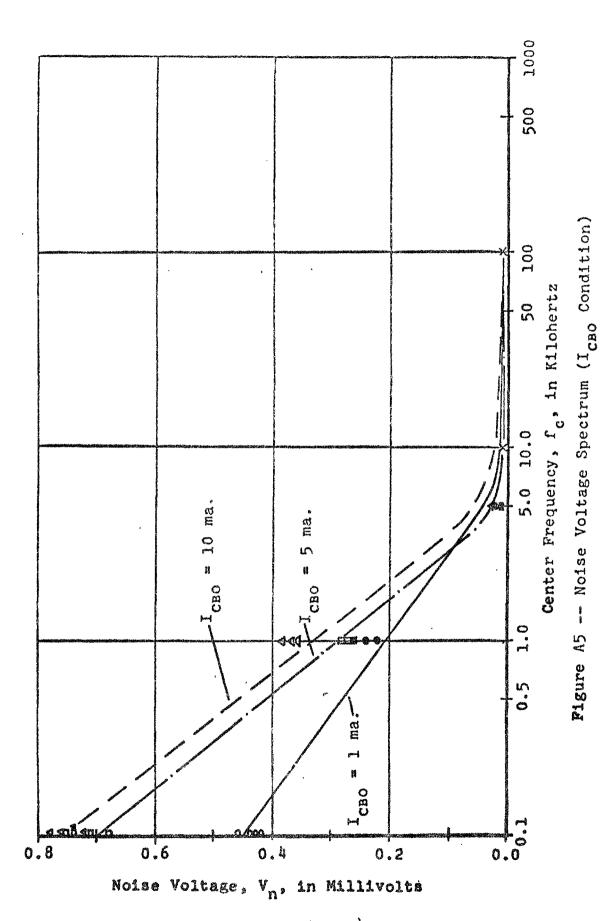


Second Breakdown Current, I<sub>SB</sub>, in Amperes

Figure A4 -- Noise Voltage vs. Second Breakdown Current

(I<sub>CBO</sub> = 1 amp.; R<sub>BE</sub> = 20 ohms)

N-X11- 31



N-X11-32

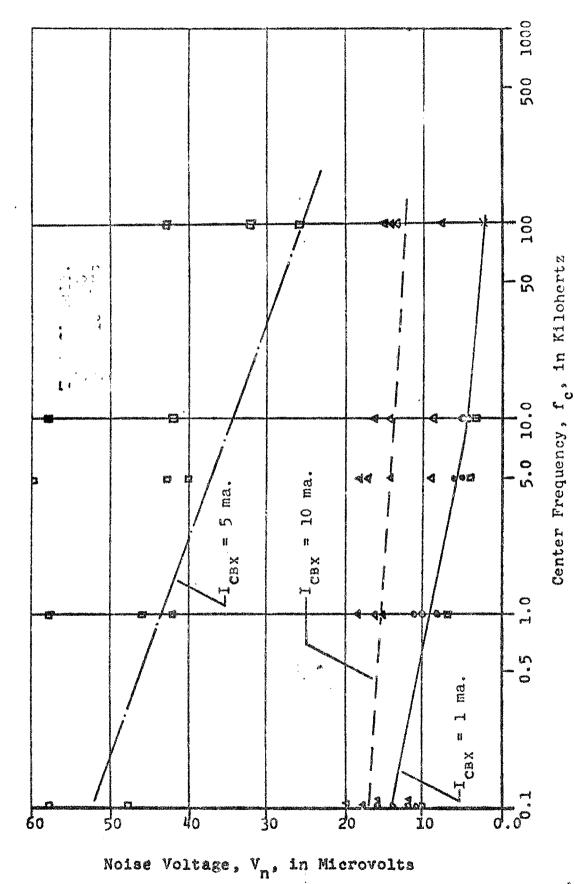


Figure A6 -- Noise Voltage Spectrum (Icax Condition)

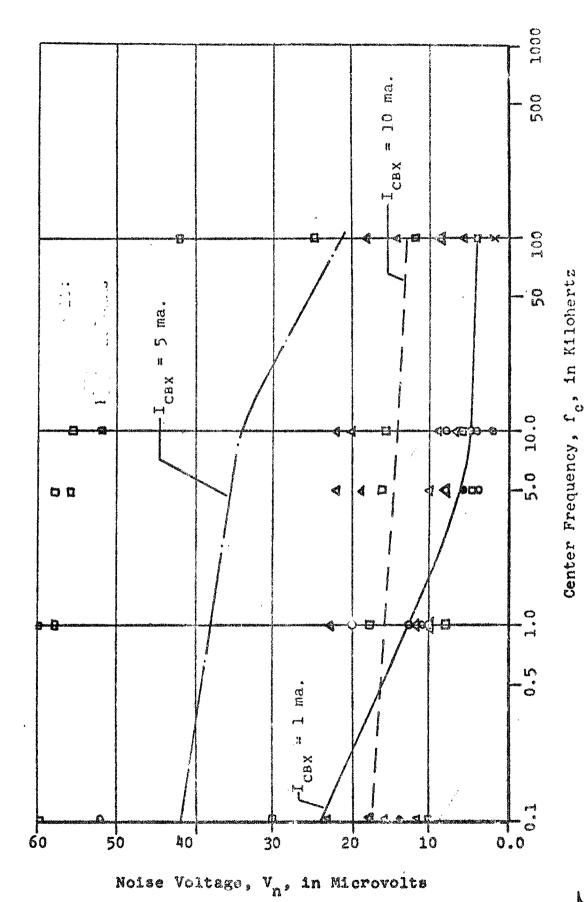
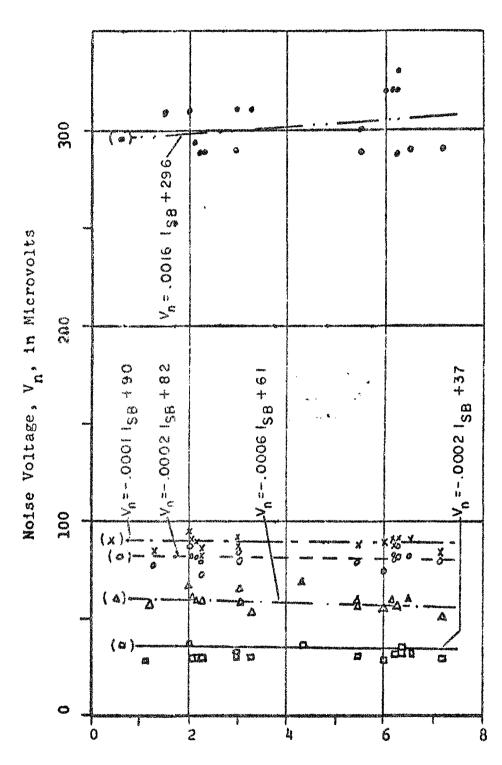


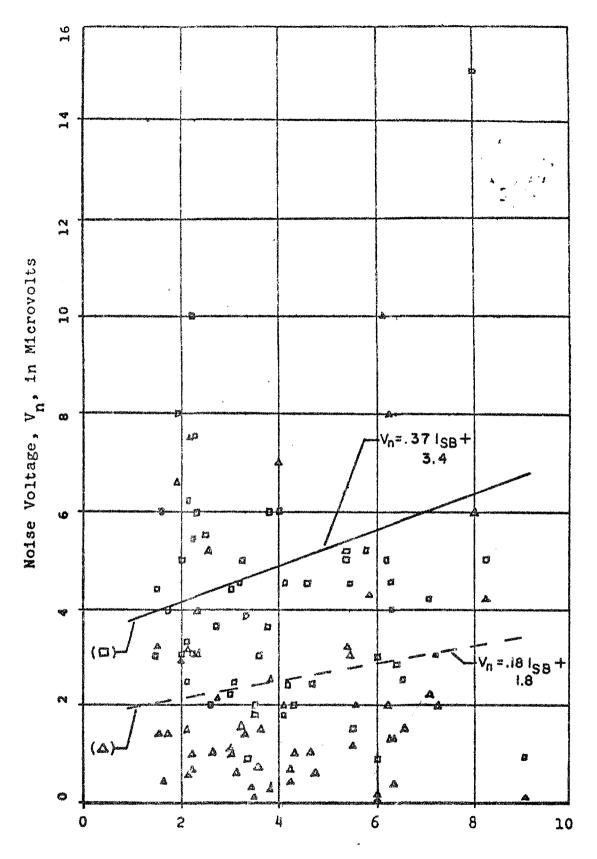
Figure A7 -- Noise Voltage Spectrum (I<sub>CBX</sub> Condition)

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Second Breakdown Current, IsB, in Amperes

Pigure A8 -- Noise Voltage vs. Second Breakdown Current



Second Breakdown Current, IsB, in Amperes

Pigure A9 -- Noise Voltage vs. Second Breakdown Current
(I = 1 amp.; R = 10 ohms)

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